(SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) During the months of August, September and October, 1986, 24 cases of bank dacoities/robberies were reported by the public sector banks. A total amount of Rs. 51.35 lakhs was reported to have been looted and 11 persons were killed in these cases. To the extent the information is available, 14 persons have reportedly been arrested in connection with these cases.

(d) With a view to improving their security arrangements, banks have taken steps for appointment of armed security guards, installation of appropriate alarm systems etc. in vulnerable branches depending on the risk factor involved. Provision of wire-mesh cash cabins for cashiers, installation of collapsible steel gates in branches etc. are some of other measures, which have been implemented for improving the security of branches in a phased manner.

**Merger of sales tax with excise duty**

1987. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to merge sales tax with excise duty in respect of certain items; and

(b) if so, whether any decision has since been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) In terms of a resolution adopted in the Chief Ministers' Conference on sales tax held on 13-2-1981 an Expert Committee was set up to study the financial implications of the extension of the scheme of Additional Excise Duty in lieu of sales tax on Vanaspati, Drugs and Medicines, Cement, Paper and paper Board and Petroleum products and the manner in which the financial interests of the States could be safeguarded. The recommendations of the Committee headed by Shri Kamlapati Tripathi, then M.P. were considered by another Chief Ministers' Conference held on 2-11-83. In that Conference some of the Chief Ministers indicated that they were not in a position to accept the recommendations. They expressed the view that the replacement of sales tax by additional excise duty will affect the powers of the States and erode their revenues and resource position. The other States did not oppose the scheme. Many of them indicated their acceptance of the recommendations with or without reservations. At the end of the Conference a resolution was adopted to the effect that efforts should be continued to bring about consensus among State Governments on the issue. Efforts made so far have not been successful.

**Handloom Silk Industry**

1988. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the handloom silk industry is in peril in several parts of the country and especially in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what type of long-term measures/are being taken by Government for the revival of the handloom silk industry in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) However, the silk handloom industry all over the country is sought to be protected by the recently issued orders reserving certain silk items like Dhoties, Sarees, Lungies and engavastrams containing more than 25 per cent pure silk by weight for exclusive production by Handlooms. Earlier, reservation order, prior to 31st March, 1986, covered only items

of cotton origin and it is for the first time that certain silk items have been reserved for the handloom sector.

**Implementation of Pay Commission recommendations in respect of Union Territory employees**

1989. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to implement the Fourth Central Pay Commission's recommendations in repect of the employees of Union Territory of Chandigarh and other Union Territories;

(b) if so, from which date the decision has been made effective; and

(c) if no decision has so far been taken in the matter what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) The Fourth Central Pay Commission in Chapter 27 of the Part-I of their Report have made the following observations in regard to Union Territory of Chandigarh:—

> "We have not dealt with Chandigarh in view of the stated policy of Central Government or transfer it to Punjab."

In regard to the employees belonging to Group 'B', 'C' & 'D' categories of the remaining Union Territory Administrations, the Government have accepted broadly, subject to certain improvements the recommendations of the Pay Commission in the matter of pay scales and allowances. Copies of the Resolution and Notifications issued in this regard have been placed on the Table of the House separately.

While the revision of pay scales has been permitted with effect from 1st January 1986, the payment of certain categories of allowances, for example, House Rent Allowance, Compensatory (City) Allowance etc., has been authorised from 1st October 1986.

**Shares of States in collections**

1990. SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that from the financial year 1986-87 States are not being given the share by way of loans for small savings collected in the form of Provident Fund and Public Provident Fund;

(b) whether Government are aware that this will affect the resources of the State Governments to finance their plans; and if so, how the Central Government purposes to fill up this gap;

(c) whether the Maharashtra State Government has requested the Central Government to give share in the form of loan against the collection of Provident Fund and Public Provident Fund; and

(d) what will be the shortfall of resources of States and Union Territories on account of not giving share of loan on account of this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (d) Public Provident Fund collections are shared with State Governments. From 1-4-1986, non-Government Provident Funds, which previously invested a part of their funds in Post Offices Time Deposits are required to invest that part in Special Deposits, which is not part of small savings. Certain States, including Maharashtra had requested that this would affect their share of small savings and they have been informed that instead of looking at the resource